

## Question

When can I expect more Flu vaccine?

## Answer

To All:

Mostly not good news this week, so far, but there is reason for some optimism.

Wyeth made their last shipment of flu vaccines several days past their own projections (which they gave on Monday last week). Their shipment did not reach the depot until Friday evening. The depot people worked Saturday to get this materiel received and put into refrigeration. Our inventory manager came in Sunday to process the transactions for the Materiel Release Orders (MROs) so that when the depot people came in on Monday, they would be able to ship as much as they possibly could.

Unfortunately the plans originally had been to have the depot people work Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday to get the planned 500 shipments out. Wyeth's late shipment made this impossible (it had been expected on Tuesday). Then, our materiel management system, SAMMS, went down yesterday (Sunday) and part of today, so the inventory manager was not able to process the MROs. This meant that we lost today as a shipping day. All we have left of the original four days is tomorrow.

We have contacted the services flu vaccine reps and asked them to prioritize for us the open requisitions. We will manually process the requisitions for these activities and have these shipped on Tuesday. Each customer will be contacted and instructed to stand by for a shipment to ensure proper handling once it is received. However, we may be able to ship no more than 20 shipments in or time to meet the FEDEX cutoff for Wednesday delivery.

By now, you are probably wondering about the good news (there has to be some, right?). Well, there is. According to the FDA, Wyeth has resolved all open FDA issues and can now present lots for inspection which will be approved and released by the FDA very quickly. Wyeth had been delayed last week because of their own internal QA process.

Also, in an effort to recover lost ground, the depot people will be working Friday and over the weekend to get shipments out. We are being very careful about shipping materiel so it is received during more or less regular work hours so that we don't ship to a facility which is not in a position to properly receive the materiel. This requires coordination with all, including FEDEX.

Not a good first day in the new job, all in all. The people working this here and at the depot are very frustrated but continue to do everything possible to get this stuff turned around and shipped once we receive it. It has been Murphy's Law. But at least there is a bit of light at the end of the tunnel.